Subject: Grant half dollar (with star)

McCardle, Kenneth
[Newell, WV]

1937

Bot 364

Kenneth McCardle.
A.N.A. 4044.
Newell, W. Va.

1-9-'37

Mr. Howland Wood.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

In 'The Numismatist', page 21, I note members of local clubs were told how to distinguish a genuine Grant with Star' half-dollar, without looking at the star.

This interests me, very much. May I know how it is done? I've been interested in coins for years, but not an A.N.A. member so long. My set of Commemorative Half-dollars is 'Complete', to date.

I thank you. Sincerely,

Ulysses.

Ulysses

Ulysses

January 15, 1937

Mr. Kenneth McCardle,
Box 364,
Newell, W. Va.

Dear Sir:

It is not difficult to tell a genuine Grant half dollar with star. The star was in the original die and these pieces were struck first. When the proper number had been struck they polished the star off the die, and also, apparently at the same time, smoothed up the background which in places showed certain minor defects best seen under a glass.

These are the chief ones: A small raised defect in the field between the IT of UNITED and back of Grant's head. Between the tip of the nose and the upper lip the background is a little higher. Between the G of GRANT to the point of the chin there is a little raised mark in the background. Going out from the tie, there is also a little triangular raised mark in the background. Running from L of ULYSSUS to U of UNITED STATES there is a little ridge in the background; also a little ridge in the bottom part of the N of UNITED. Running through the top of the letters of HALF and through the D and O of DOLLAR is a slight ridge.

A genuine star shows a very slight defect in the field of the star. All of the points are blunt and especially the one pointing towards T of GRANT. All these little roughnesses were cleaned up on the die before they struck pieces without the star. Therefore you will see it is impossible for any faked pieces to have these defects as they cannot add them to the coin.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks